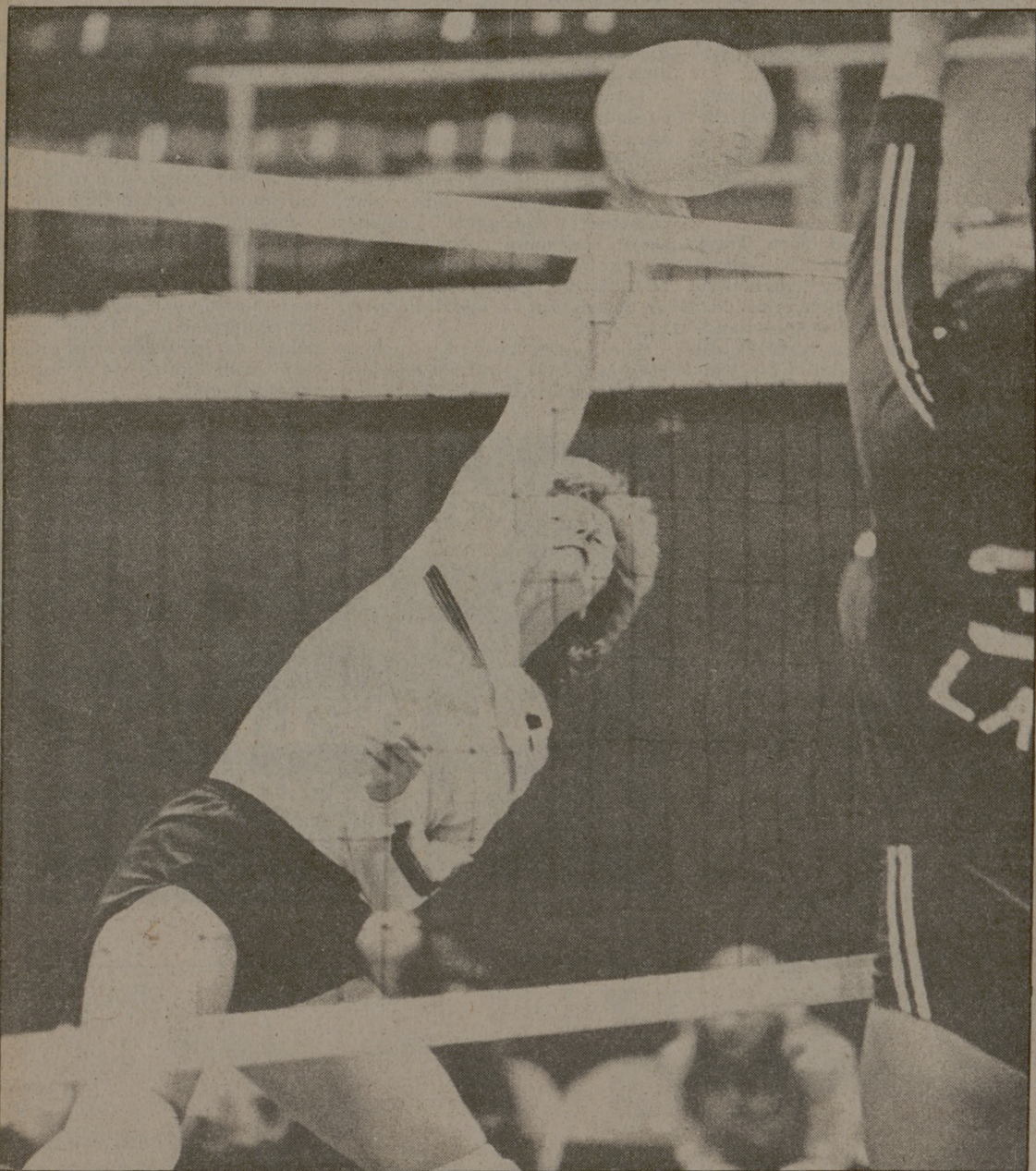


Sports

Wilson reflects on past and points to future



Senior volleyball player Wendy Wilson spikes the ball against Lamar earlier this year. Wilson attributes much of her success to God and

the role He plays in her life, as well as the team's success. Wilson is an accounting major and graduates in December.

By GAYE DENLEY

Battalion Staff
Her team from the southern region had just won the volleyball segment of the 1978 National Sports Festival, and Wendy Wilson had been named the most valuable player in the tournament.

"I just remember sitting outside the house there, crying, saying, 'Lord, I don't understand why you're doing all this for me,'" Wilson, a senior accounting major and the driving force behind a nationally-ranked Aggie volleyball team, said.

"Volleyball has been a very, very powerful tool that the Lord has used in my life," she said, reflecting on her two summers with the national team and four years with Texas A&M. "It taught me a lot about myself, about my relationships with other people, and about His activity in my life."

Small wonder that the Aggies have broken into the NCAA top 20 for the first time under the leadership of the blond, 5'9" Wilson, whose compelling combination of

humility and confidence is difficult to resist.

Wilson was a member of the 1978 and 1979 national teams that won second place in the Pacific Rim International Tournament, losing to Japan one year and Korea the next. This season, the hitter/blocker has led the Aggies to the 18th spot in the national rankings.

A mainstay of state and national all-tournament rosters since her sophomore year in high school, Wilson attributes her recognition to the success of the team.

"It's such a team thing. You aren't chosen for something like that unless your team's doing well," she said. "There are a lot of good players on teams that aren't doing well, and they don't get recognition."

A 1977 graduate of Arlington High School, Wilson surprised everyone, including herself, by choosing to play for Texas A&M. "I wanted to play volleyball, and I wanted to pursue academics, and I wanted a place where I could grow all-around, because especially when you're in sports, it's real

easy to get a very narrow focus," she said.

"I had no desire to go to Texas A&M. I didn't even visit A&M. And then we came down here for a tournament in high school, and I just knew that this was the place for me."

Daily practices and almost weekly tournaments keep her busy, Wilson said, but it's a sacrifice she is willing to make. "That's one of the tradeoffs. If I weren't in volleyball, I'd probably have a lot more time to devote to other things, but I feel like there's a lot of things I'm learning. The things that are really important, you make time for," she said.

Nevertheless, between classes, practices and tournaments, Wilson has found time to serve as one of the "core leaders" of the Texas A&M Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Wilson and the rest of the leaders plan, organize and run the meetings of the fellowship on a

rotating basis, depending on who is busy at the time.

"It's open to everybody to meet every other week, and different speakers. Usually a speaker tries to relate it to athletics... We try to relate it to performance and competition."

Although she will receive a degree in accounting in December, Wilson plans to stay at the station for at least a year, working with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"We need some leadership that's not committed to religion other things," she said. "When you're a student, hard — we're having a hard time right now."

Wilson is also attending a National Missions Conference in December that she hopes will help her decide on a direction for the future.

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